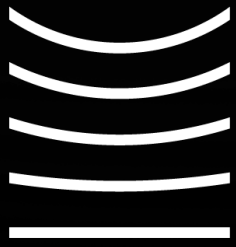




INDIANA DISTRICT



# LAFFONT COMPETITION

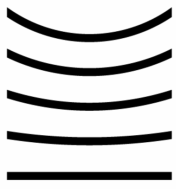
The Metropolitan Opera

JANUARY 13, 2024 | 11:00 AM

THE CHRISTEL DEHAAN FINE ARTS CENTER  
Ruth Lilly Performance Hall

UNIVERSITY OF  
**INDIANAPOLIS**

HOSTED BY  
INDIANAPOLIS OPERA



INDIANA DISTRICT

# LAFFONT COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera

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Committee Members	Daniel Narducci Bonnie Reilly

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The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation

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## OUR JUDGES

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### **KATHERINE JOLLY, soprano**

A bright, accomplished singer on the opera and concert stages, coloratura soprano Katherine Jolly has appeared in leading roles with Opera Theatre Saint Louis, Florida Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Virginia Opera, Amarillo Opera, Piedmont Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, American Lyric Theatre, and others. Her recent CD *Preach Sister Preach* has received airtime on radio stations across the world and garnered rave reviews in publications and on websites such as Gramophone, Review Graveyard, Take Effect, and others.

In the concert arena, she has recently appeared with the Virginia Symphony, Cincinnati Song Initiative, the Orgue en Fété festival, in Bergerac, Chamber Project STL, the Evansville Philharmonic, the Richmond Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, Sinfonia Gulf Coast, the Northwest Florida Symphony, and the Sacramento Choral Arts Society. She is a frequent collaborator with the esteemed baroque Kingsbury Ensemble and appears in recitals with arts organizations throughout the nation.

A winner of the 2006 Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals, she has also been the recipient of awards from organizations including the George London Foundation, Opera Theatre Saint Louis, the McAllister Foundation, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Dr. Jolly is currently an Associate Professor of Voice at Oberlin Conservatory, where she received the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2020-2021. Her students are regularly accepted into top young artist programs and conservatories throughout the United States and have placed in competitions such as the Laffont Competition, the Marilyn Horne Competition, the Schmidt Vocal Arts Undergraduate Competition, NATS, and others.



### **KELLY KUO, conductor**

Praised as “a leader of exceptional musical gifts, who has a clear technique on the podium and an impressive rapport with audiences,” Maestro Kelly Kuo brings a dynamic versatility and nuance to a diverse repertoire, which includes 100 operas. Currently Music Director of the Reno Chamber Orchestra, Artistic Director and Conductor of Oregon Mozart Players and Associate Artistic Director of American Lyric Theater, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to bold programming and creative initiatives. His engagements have included productions with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Minnesota Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Merola Opera Program, Kentucky Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Opera Columbus, and the Brevard Music Center, and concerts with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Sunriver Music Festival, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Olympia Symphony Orchestra, and Ballet Fantastique.

In 2008, Maestro Kuo became the first conductor of Asian descent to lead a performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, making his company debut with *Porgy and Bess*. He has since returned to lead the Chicago premiere of *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* and performances featuring artists of the Ryan Opera Center. Upcoming engagements include debuts with Glimmerglass Opera, Knoxville Opera and the Walla Walla Symphony.

An Oregon native and recipient of a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistant Award for young conductors, Kuo continues to concertize as a keyboardist as the only pianist to have studied with two pupils of the Russian virtuoso Vladimir Horowitz.



### **DAVID NEELY, conductor**

David Neely has been described by Opera News as "a ninja warrior with a baton" (Opera News). He maintains an active career in symphonic, opera, ballet, and educational settings.

As Music Director and Principal Conductor of Des Moines Metro Opera, Neely has elevated the company's musical profile and developed one of the nation's finest opera orchestras. He has led critically acclaimed performances of new and traditional repertoire that includes the recent world premiere of Kristin Kuster and Mark Campbell's *A Thousand Acres*, the in-person premiere of Damien Geter and Lila Palmer's *American Apollo*, regional Emmy award-winning productions of *Manon* and *Billy Budd* for Iowa Public Television, and approximately 30 other works. He has led productions with Atlanta Opera, Sarasota Opera, Intermountain Opera, and

numerous European opera houses including Bonn and Dortmund.

Neely has led concerts with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Portland Symphony Orchestra, Dortmund Philharmonic, Bochumer Philharmoniker, Eutin Festival Orchestra, Bregenz Symphony Orchestra, and is a regular conductor with the D.C. area's Apollo Orchestra. Neely is also Director of Orchestras at the University of Maryland School of Music and is a regular guest conductor and guest conducting teacher at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he previously served on faculty and most recently conducted Osvaldo Golijov's operatic masterwork, *Ainadamar*.

He has appeared as a collaborative pianist with numerous vocalists, including a recent recital with Joyce Castle and Schubert's *Winterreise* with David Adam Moore. He has served as a guest teacher with Washington National Opera's Cafritz Young Artist program and was the conductor for Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative in 2021. He recently appeared with the American Lyric Theater in New York and with the National Orchestra Institute + Festival.

## **OUR PIANIST**

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### **SHUICHI UMEYAMA, pianist**

Shuichi Umeyama is an assistant professor of music in opera studies and an opera coach at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

A sought-out collaborator by internationally prominent vocalists, pianist Umeyama is a highly seasoned concert performer. Equally at ease as a soloist and accompanist, he commands a vast repertoire in both vocal and instrumental literature. He has performed piano concertos by Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, among others, and his recitals have been broadcast on Japan National Broadcasting (NHK).

In the United States, Umeyama has served as a coach or an accompanist for San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Opera North, Indianapolis Opera, and others. He has been an official accompanist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Laffont Competition) for over 30 years.

As a musical coach, he has participated in numerous operatic world premieres, including *Our Town* (Rorem), *Jeppe* (Sandstrom), *Vincent* (Rands), *The Tale of Lady Thi Kinh* (Phan), and *Anne Frank* (Ran).

In 2017, Umeyama taught voice students at Aichi University of the Arts in Japan as a resident artist.

REPERTOIRE | JANUARY 13, 2024  
IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

TESS OTTINGER, SOPRANO, 29

VIENNA, VA

Myself I shall adore	SEMELE	Handel
Ah! Douce enfant	CENDRILLON	Massenet
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
Presentation of the Rose	DER ROSENKAVALIER	Strauss

HENRY BENSON, TENOR, 27

MARINETTE, WI

Tarquinius does not wait	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Last Night	FELLOW TRAVELERS	Gregory Spears
Se all'impero, amici Dei	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart

SARAH RACHEL BACANI, SOPRANO, 29

TOMS RIVER, NJ

Oh! quante volte	I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI	Bellini
Ah! Je veux vivre	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Mi tradì quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart

LAUREN RANDOLPH, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 23

CHICAGO IL

Where Shall I Fly?	HERCULES	Handel
Werther! Qui m'aurait dit...Ces lettres	WERTHER	Massenet
Deh, per questo istante solo	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Sein wir wieder gut	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	Strauss

SOHYUN CHO, SOPRANO, 27

ANN ARBOR

Prendi, per me sei libero	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti
Wo bin ich?	HÄNSEL UND GRETEL	Humperdinck
Ah, douce enfant	CENDRILLON	Massenet
S'altro che lacrime	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	W.A.Mozart

SHAN DING, BARITONE, 24

LINHAI, CHINA

Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Lieben, Hassen, Hoffen, Zagen	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	Strauss
Ô vin, dissipe la tristesse	HAMLET	Thomas
Per me giunto	DON CARLO	Verdi

NICHOLAS KELLIHER, COUNTERTENOR, 28		BALDWIN, NY
Dawn, still darkness	FLIGHT	Dove
J'ai perdu mon Euridice	ORPHÉE ET EURIDICE	Gluck
Pena tiranna	AMADIGI DI GAULA	Handel
Rompo I lacci	FLAVIO	Handel
EMMA ROTHFIELD, SOPRANO, 25		CHICAGO, IL
Amour, ranime mon courage	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Padre, germani, addio	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Son pochi fiori	L'AMICO FRITZ	Pietro Mascagni
Iolanta's Aria	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky
CARLYLE QUINN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 23		PORTLAND, OR
"En vain pour éviter les réponses amères"	CARMEN	Bizet
Minskwoman's Aria: "I bought this suitcase in New York"	FLIGHT	Dove
Werther! Qui m'aurait dit...Ces lettres	WERTHER	Massenet
Deh, per questo istante solo	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
GRACE WIPFLI, SOPRANO, 28		TOLEDO, OH
Clarissa's Aria	THE HOURS	Kevin Puts
Il est doux, il est bon	HÉRODIADE	Massenet
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Iolanta's Aria	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky
OLIVIA GRONENTHAL, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 26		CHICAGO, IL
Must the winter come so soon?	VANESSA	Barber
Allez, laissez-moi seul	CENDRILLON	Massenet
Faites-lui mes aveux	FAUST	Gounod
Voi, che sapete	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
GABRIELLE TURGEON, SOPRANO, 22		SAULT STE. MARIE, ON
Piangerò la sorte mia	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Mon père...oh mon père	DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES	Poulenc
My Darling Jim	GLORY DENIED	Tom Cipullo

MATTHEW LI, BASS, 26		OTTAWA, ON
Que les songes heureux	PHILÉMON ET BAUCIS	Gounod, Charles
Madamina! il catalago è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Aleko's Cavatina (Vyes' tabor spit)	ALEKO	Rachmaninoff
La calunnia	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
ALEA VERNON, SOPRANO, 23		CHESHIRE CT
Der Hölle Rache	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
À vos jeux, mes amis...Partagez-vous mes fleurs!	HAMLET	Thomas
Valeria's Aria	MAYO	Tom Cipullo
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
MADISON MONTAMBAULT, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28		ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
O ma lyre immortelle	SAPHO	Gounod
Voi lo sapete	CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	Mascagni
Non più di fiori	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Sein wir wieder gut	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	Strauss
KATHIANA DARGENSON, SOPRANO, 25		ORLANDO, FL
Je souffre...Charme des jours passe	HÉRODIADE	Jules Massenet
Or sai chi l'onore	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Doy mi sangre	AIMADAMAR	Oswaldo Golijov
Tatiana's Letter Scene	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
SUNGHOO HAN, BASS-BARITONE, 27		SEOUL
Riez! Allez!	DON QUICHOTTE	Massenet
Madamina! il catalago è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Gremin's Aria	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
Come dal ciel precipita	MACBETH	Verdi
GWENYTH SELL, SOPRANO, 25		NOBLESVILLE, IN
After you hear me out	GLORY DENIED	Cipullo
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Vorrei punirti indegno	LA FINTA GIARDINIERA	Mozart
Mi chiamano Mimì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
BRITTANY ROSE WEINSTOCK, SOPRANO, 23		NEWPORT BEACH, CA
Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém (Song to the Moon)	RUSALKA	Dvořák
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Per pietà, ben mio, perdona	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Tatiana's Letter Scene	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky

RANDELL MCGEE, BARITONE, 29		SAINT LOUIS, MO
Peculiar Grace	FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES	Blanchard
Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
Hai già vinta la causa!	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
O du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
TZYTLE STEINMAN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28		OCEANSIDE, CA
This Journey	DEAD MAN WALKING	Heggie
Enfin je suis ici	CENDRILLON	Massenet
Smanie implacabili	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Wie du warst	DER ROSENKAVALIER	Strauss
WONKYUNG CHUNG, SOPRANO, 26		SEOUL
I Am the Wife of Mao Tsetung	NIXON IN CHINA	Adams
Ach ich liebte	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
O zittre nicht, mein lieber Sohn	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
À vos jeux, mes amis...Partagez-vous mes fleurs!	HAMLET	Thomas
LUCY EVANS, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 25		BELLINGHAM, WA
Am I in your light?	DOCTOR ATOMIC	Adams
Parto, parto, ma tu, ben mio	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Violin Aria	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
VICTORIA OKAFOR, SOPRANO, 28		HYATTSVILLE MD
Ed ora conoscetela	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Non disperar	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Martern aller Arten	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
XIAOJIE JI, TENOR, 28		GUANGZHOU, CHINA
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Pourquoi me réveiller	WERTHER	Massenet
Il mio tesoro	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
La donna è mobile	RIGOLETTO	Verdi



2023–24 SEASON

# INDIANA

DISTRICT COMPETITION

JANUARY 13, 2024

 LAFFONT  
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



The 2023 Laffont Grand Finalists

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**National Semifinals**

Monday, March 11, 2024

**Eric and Dominique Laffont  
Grand Finals Concert**

Sunday, March 17, 2024

For up-to-date auditions results, alumni news, and other general information, follow [@metoperacompetition](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

**THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION**

The Met's Laffont Competition—previously known as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions—is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers, and is sponsored by hundreds of donors and volunteers from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Some of today's greatest singers got their starts in the competition, including Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Stephanie Blythe, Eric Owens, Lawrence Brownlee, Lisette Oropesa, Nadine Sierra, Jamie Barton, Michael Fabiano, Ryan Speedo Green, and Anthony Roth Costanzo.

The Competition is grateful to its donors for prizes at the national level and to the Tobin Endowment for the Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award, given to each first-place region winner.

Support for this program is generously provided by the Charles H. Dyson Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.

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